



**What
Should I be
When I
Grow Up?**

Utah's Job Outlook

By Lecia Parks Langston

The Department of Workforce Services has just completed a current round of occupational projections for Utah. Why? Well, it's not because projecting job demand is really fun. (Trust me, I have personal experience.) We do it because those making career choices (both young and "more mature") should use this information. It's not cool to spend a huge chunk of your life in school only to be unable to find a job in your field or to discover your wages fall short of your expectations. Plus, educational planners want to know what training programs to provide students.

However, even though we've finished these very lovely projections, this brief two-page article can't cover much. So, go to the internet to learn more! (<http://jobs.utah.gov/wi/occi.asp>)

Let's cover a few interesting facts. But first, remember that these projections only represent the "demand" side of the economic equation. Demand may be high, but the "supply" of workers may be even higher.

How Much Training?

As in the past, most new jobs will require only "on-the-job" training—or "work experience." However, many of these jobs are not "careers." In every projection cycle, cashiers and retail sales workers top the list for most new openings—not only in Utah, but in the U.S. Yet, few individuals consider cashiering a long-term career. These positions are typically stepping stones on the ladder to another career. And, let's be frank, they usually don't pay very well.

Even though it's really big, the group of occupations requiring on-the-job training is growing at a much slower rate than jobs requiring post-high-school training. Although they make up the smallest share of "jobs by training level," the positions requiring vocational training or an associate degree are projected to grow the most rapidly (3.9 percent annually compared to 2.3 percent for work-experience jobs). Positions requiring at least a four-year college degree should expand at a rate of 3.4 percent per year.

Fastest Growth?

Computer-related occupations are projected to experience (by far) the most rapid growth during the next decade. I know, I know. The field is experiencing a downturn right now. But, remember, we're talking about "the future"—the long term. This short-term slowdown for some techies will undoubtedly disappear as time progresses. Do you use a computer? Does almost everything you own have some kind of computer in it? Will this trend continue? Yes. Then, we're probably going to need lots of computer professionals.

High-Paying?

Let's be honest. Most of us don't want a low paying job. So why should I waste your time telling you about all the low-paying jobs around? Take a look at the graph on the bottom of this page. These are the highest-paying occupations projected to have at least 100 openings annually for the next decade.

Yes, I know. Lawyers are on the list. Remember this is just the "demand" and Utah has two law schools producing roughly twice the number of lawyers as there are openings.

But, what's the first thing you notice about the list in general?

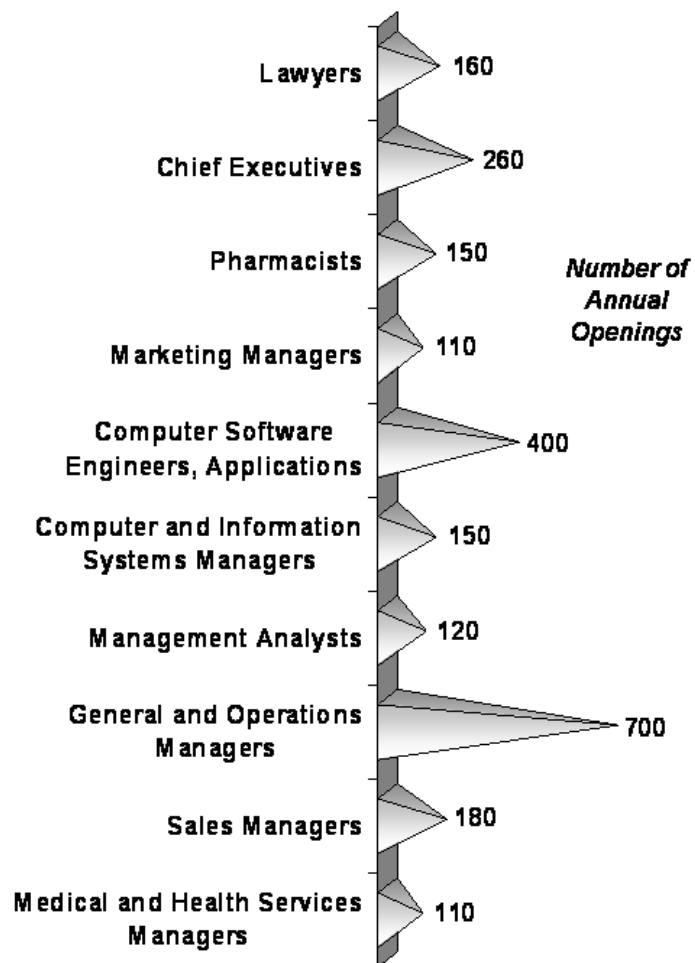
The top ten highest-paying, in-demand jobs require a college education. Yeah, it's true. Your parents were right. Education pays.

There's More. . .

We've just touched the tip of the iceberg here. Find out more about Utah jobs in demand. Visit our website: <http://jobs.utah.gov/wi/occi.asp>.

For more information about future jobs in Utah check out:
<http://jobs.utah.gov/wi/occi.asp>.

Utah Highest Paying Occupations with at Least 100 Annual Openings, 2000-2010



Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services.